May 14, 2002

FACT SHEET

Proposed Rule to Reduce Toxic Air Emissions From Engine Test Cells/Stands.

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a proposed rule to reduce toxic air pollutant emissions from newly constructed or reconstructed engine test cells and engine test stands. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects.

- This rule applies to engine test cells/stands used for testing internal combustion engines of 25 horsepower or more and are located at sources that emit enough toxic air pollutants to be defined as "major" under the Clean Air Act. A major stationary source of air toxics emissions is one with the potential to emit greater than 10 tons per year of any one air toxic or 25 tons per year of any combination of air toxics.

- An engine test cell/stand is any apparatus used for testing uninstalled stationary or uninstalled mobile engines. Engine test cells/stands emit air toxics in the exhaust gases from combustion of gaseous and liquid fuels in the engines being tested in the test cells/stands. The primary air toxics present in the exhaust gases are toluene, benzene, mixed xylenes, and 1,3-butadiene. The health effects associated with exposure to these air toxics include cancer, respiratory irritation, and damage to the nervous system.

- EPA worked with States, industry representatives, and associated groups and trade associations to develop this proposal.

- EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register. The Agency expects to finalize the rule within one year after proposal.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The Clean Air Act also required EPA to identify source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources, the Act requires EPA to develop a list of industries, known as source categories, that emit one or more of the 188 listed air toxics. EPA is issuing standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.

- EPA's published list of source categories includes engine test cells/stands.

BENEFITS AND COST

- When promulgated, this action would reduce air toxic emissions by 135 tons per year in the fifth year after promulgation.

- EPA expects implementation of this proposed rule will result in national annualized costs of approximately $7.4 million per year, including monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting costs of about $440,000.

- Producers are not expected to cease or alter their current engine testing operations as a result of this proposed rule.

WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE REQUIRES

- This proposal addresses four subcategories:

  - engine test cells/stands used for testing internal combustion engines of 25 horsepower or more;
  - engine test cells/stands used for testing internal combustion engines of less than 25 horsepower;
  - engine test cells/stands used for testing combustion turbine engines; and
  - engine test cells/stands used for testing rocket engines.

- Although the proposed rule addresses these four subcategories of engine test cells/stands, it would limit air toxics emissions only from new or reconstructed engine test cells/stands used for testing internal combustion engines of 25 horsepower or more located at major stationary sources of air toxics emissions. The proposed rule would not require emission limitations for the other three subcategories.

- The air toxic emissions reductions required by this rule could be achieved through the use of an oxidation emission control device, such as a catalytic or thermal incinerator. These devices burn air toxic emissions at high temperatures to produce harmless by-products.

- The proposed rule is structured to provide industry with flexibility in achieving compliance. Oxidation emission control devices such as thermal incinerators, reduce carbon monoxide (CO) emissions as well as air toxics emissions. As a result, CO emissions serve as a surrogate or an alternate means of measuring air toxics emissions. An owner or operator of a new engine test cell/stand affected by the proposed rule may choose to reduce CO emissions by 99.9 percent or more, or reduce CO emissions to 5 parts per million or less, corrected to 15 percent oxygen.

- Owners and operators of new engine test cells/stands who would have to comply with this

proposed rule would also need to meet certain recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including semiannual compliance reports.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO COMMENT

- To download the standard from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html.

- The notice and background information document are also available through EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (Docket Number A-98-29), by calling (202)260-7548 or fax (202)260-4000 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).

- Written comments on the proposed rule should be submitted (in duplicate) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention Docket Number A-98-29, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Please also send a separate copy to Mr. Jaime Pagán, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Combustion Group, Emission Standards Division (MD-13), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; facsimile number (919)541-5340; electronic mail address: pagan.jaime@epamail.epa.gov.

- If you are submitting proprietary information, you must clearly distinguish it from other comments and clearly label it confidential. To ensure proprietary information is not released or inadvertently placed in the public docket, send such information directly to Mr. Jaime Pagán, c/o Document Control Officer (Room 740B), USEPA, 411 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, NC 27701.

- For general information about the proposed standard, contact Mr. Jaime Pagán of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Policy Planning and Standards Group at (919) 541-5340 or by email at pagan.jaime@epamail.epa.gov.

- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR's) homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR's home page address is: www.epa.gov/oar/.